

REMARKS

Claims 8-14 are pending and rejected in this application. Claims 8, 10 and 12 are amended hereby.

Responsive to the Examiner's objection to the specification, Applicants have, while keeping in mind the Examiner's comments, amended several paragraphs of the specification and Fig. 3, and submit that the disclosure is now in allowable form.

Responsive to the Examiner's objection to Fig. 3, Applicants have, while keeping in mind the Examiner's comments, amended Fig. 3, and submit that Fig. 3 is now in allowable form.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Applicants have amended claims 10 and 12, and submit that claims 10 and 12, do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of Applicants' invention and that claims 10 and 12 are now in condition for allowance. It is assumed that the Examiner's reference to a rejection of claim 13, as noted on page 2 of the Office Action was an error and that the Examiner intended to reject claim 12, which is the subject of the Examiner's comments.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,867,073 (Weinreb et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,829,348 (Kostriza et al.), Applicants have amended claims 8 and 10 and submit that claims 8 and 10 are now in condition for allowance.

Weinreb et al. disclose a waveguide to a transmission line transition including a first ground plate 9 and a second ground plate 10. A probe 12 couples electrical signals between waveguide 1 and transmission line 2. Because the metallization of ground plate 10 is removed within waveguide 1, probe 12 is not shielded by the ground plane. Conductors 14 electrically

connect first ground plate 9 and second ground plate 10 through substrate 8 (column 3, line 41 through column 4, line 1).

Kostriza et al. disclose a line-above-ground to hollow waveguide coupling including a first conductor 1 and a second conductor 2 spaced apart by a layer of dielectric material 3. First conductor 1 is connected to wall 5 and protrudes therebeyond into the rectangular wave guide a suitable distance for impedance matching purposes (column 2, lines 19-44).

In contrast claim 8, recites in part:

a substrate including a plurality of ground surfaces superimposed on one another, at least one of said plurality of ground surfaces being interior to said substrate.

(Emphasis added) Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Weinreb et al., Kostriza et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Weinreb et al. disclose a waveguide to a transmission line transition including a first ground plate 9 and a second ground plate 10. Weinreb et al. teaches two ground plates neither of which are interior to a substrate. Kostriza et al. disclose a line-above-ground to hollow waveguide coupling including a first conductor 1 and a second conductor 2 spaced apart by a layer of dielectric material 3 with first conductor 1 connected to wall 5 and protruding therebeyond into a rectangular wave guide. In contrast, Applicants' invention includes a plurality of ground surfaces superimposed upon one another in a layered fashion. Therefore, Weinreb et al. and Kostriza et al. alone or in combination fail to disclose or suggest a substrate including a plurality of ground surfaces superimposed on one another, at least one of the plurality of ground surfaces being interior to the substrate, as recited in claim 8.

An advantage of Applicants' invention is that it has multiple ground surfaces formed in layers that are in contact by way of through contacts. Another advantage of Applicants' invention

is that a low transmission attenuation is achieved by way of at least one screw having its head on one of the ground surfaces. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 8, and claim 10 depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinreb et al. in view of Kostriza et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,396,364 (Qvist). However, claim 9 depends from claim 8, and claim 8 has been placed in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 9 is now in condition for allowance which is hereby respectfully requested.

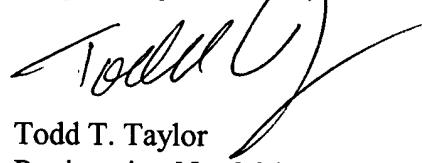
The Examiner has not indicated why claims 11, 13 and 14 have been rejected, as indicated on page 1 of the Office Action. As such, Applicants were not able to address the rejection of these claims.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the pending claims are definite and do particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Moreover, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



Todd T. Taylor  
Registration No. 36,945

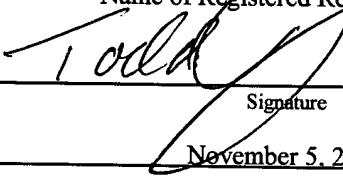
Attorney for Applicant

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: November 5, 2003.

Todd T. Taylor, Reg. No. 36,945

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

November 5, 2003

Date

TTT6/dc

TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.  
142 S. Main Street  
P.O. Box 560  
Avilla, IN 46710  
Telephone: 260-897-3400  
Facsimile: 260-897-9300

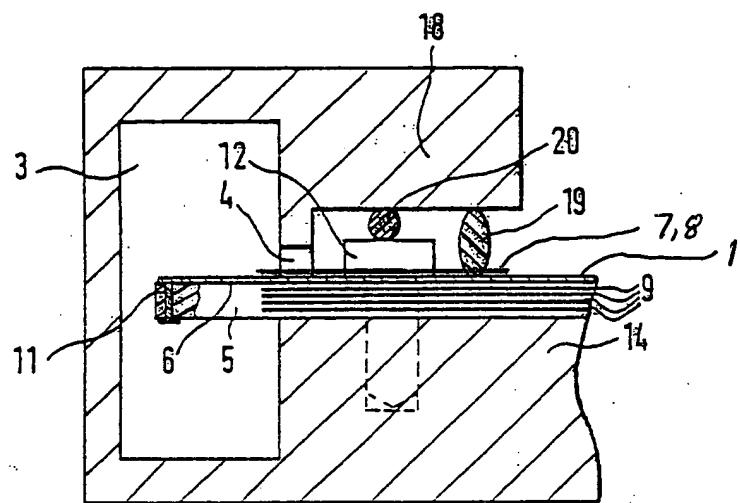
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FIG. 3